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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,626	05/31/2001	Keiichi Maeda	SON-1539/CON	7772

7590 11/26/2002

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EXAMINER

MAYEKAR, KISHOR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1741

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2002

3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/867,626

Applicant(s)
K. MAEDA

Examiner
Kishor Mayekar

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1741



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 31, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on May 31, 2002 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/296,297.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

Because claims 1-6 are originally present in the application with claims 5-6 canceled by the pre-amendment of May 31, 2002, misnumbered claims 13-16 have been renumbered as claims 7-10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, the claim is indefinite for reciting "a non-oxidative atmosphere" as part of the structure of the apparatus.

Regarding claim 3, the Markush group's format is incorrect. It should be in the format --selected from the group consisting of ...--.

Regarding claim 4, the same is applied to claim 3.

Regarding renumbered claim 8, the phrase "said plating chamber" is lacking antecedent basis.

Regarding renumbered claim 9, the phrases "whereby" (twice occurrences) is indefinite. It should be replaced with --such that-- or wherein-- to avoid the indefiniteness.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 103

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by DOTZER et al. (4,053,383). See the abstract, Figs. 1-2, col. 2, lines 19-21 and col. 5, lines 18-47.

7. Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly

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anticipated by STOGER et al. (4,176,034). See abstract and Fig. 1.

8. Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by BIRKLE et al. (4,759,831). See abstract, Fig. 1, and col. 5, lines 59-64.

9. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by CRITES et al. (5,73,642). See col. 8, lines 17-31.

10. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DOTZER '383, STOGER '034, BIRKLE '831 or CRITES '642. The difference between each of the above references applied above and the instant claim is the manner of operating the apparatus. The subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified each of the above references' teachings because it has been held that the manner in which an apparatus operates is not germane to the issue of patentability of the apparatus

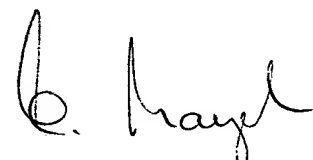
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itself, *Ex parte Wikdahl* 10 USPO 1546, *Ex parte McCullough* 7 USPO 1889, *In re Finsterwalder* 168 USPO 530, *In re Casey* 152 USPO 235.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (703) 308-0477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen, can be reached on (703) 308-3322. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9310 (non-after finals) or 872-9311 (after final).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



Kishor Mayekar
Primary Examiner
Group 1700

KM

November 20, 2002